

From: joel grimes
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:56am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I wish to express my reservations about the proposed settlement. I am firmly convinced that Microsoft have trampled on my rights and the rights of all consumers and they have no intention to change.

The proposed settlement does not punish Microsoft for the considerable wrongs they have committed, and does not do enough to prevent them from similar behaviors in the future. Microsoft has stifled competition. To redress this, the settlement must proactively foster competition. It must tip the scales farther away from Microsoft's favor. In its current form the settlement, combined with the reality of Microsoft's monopoly position, is so ineffective that the needle barely budes.

My primary objection is that Microsoft is not punished. It is only given weak behavior restrictions, and only for a very short period of time. Microsoft should be fined very heavily. The unlawful gains they have made at the expense of consumers should be confiscated. They should not be allowed to enjoy the fruits of their illegal activities.

Also, Microsoft should not be permitted to select the compliance officer or any member of the technical committee.

Where is the punishment? Where is the penalty for non-compliance? Microsoft quite happily found ways to continue their abusive behavior after their last settlement so it is a virtual certainty that they will do so again. The only penalty stated in the agreement is a possible 2 year extention of the settlement! This is maddeningly innefectual. The settlement should specify severe punishment for any infraction.

Make no mistake, Microsoft would be very pleased with this settlement. It leaves them most of their power and all of their money.

Thank you for your time.

Joel Edward Grimes